



New Funding for Counselors 2006-07 May Revision



The Proposal

- Proposes \$200 million for additional middle and high school counselors. According to the Department of Finance, funding is sufficient to provide a statewide counselor-student ratio of 300:1 in high school and 500:1 in middle school. The administration's plan would prohibit districts from using these funds to support existing counselors.



LAO Recommendations

- Use \$100 million to provide intensive academic and career counseling courses in 8th and 10th grade. Any funds remaining could be used to meet other counseling needs.
- Courses would be held once a week and could be included as part of the regular school day.
- The 8th grade course would culminate in the development of a high school course plan that would help ensure students and parents are deeply involved in determining each student's course of study. The 10th grade course would provide similar activities to help students use the last two years of high school most effectively and help students prepare for post-secondary education or work.
- Redirect the other \$100 million for other high priority uses.